

# **Memorandum of Intent Between the United States of America and the Republic of Singapore on Cooperation in Environmental Matters.**

*Signed at Washington, DC, on June 13, 2003*

The Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of Singapore,

*Desiring* to promote cooperation between their two countries, including cooperation in regional activities, in the field of environmental protection and the sustainable use of natural resources;

*Emphasizing* the importance of protecting the environment in concert with strengthening trade and investment relations as reflected in the United States - Singapore Free Trade Agreement, and in concert with other mechanisms for cooperation between their countries;

*Believing* that the United States and Singapore play an important role in the Asia region for environmental activity; and

*Intending* to create opportunities for cooperation on issues of mutual interest including the areas set out in this Memorandum of Intent,

Have reached the following understanding:

## **Section 1**

The Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of Singapore affirm their intent to cooperate jointly in the field of environmental protection and the sustainable use of natural resources. The objective of this Memorandum of Intent, hereinafter the “Memorandum,” is to identify environmental issues of mutual interest to the two governments, and to establish a mechanism through which the two governments can pursue cooperative efforts in those areas.

## **Section 2**

1. The Government of the United States and the Government of the Republic of Singapore intend to engage in cooperative bilateral activities and, where appropriate, in regional activities to promote sustainable environmental policies and practices and effective measures in support of sustainable development.
2. The areas of cooperation under this Memorandum may include any or all of the following:

- a. Strengthening cooperative relationships so as to build institutional capacity to promote environmental management, including through compliance, enforcement, and performance;
- b. Exchanging information on environmental best practices of industry, including the application of cleaner processes and technologies and sustainable production practices;
- c. Exploring possible avenues for technological cooperation, including research and development and facilitating the transfer of new technologies on mutually agreed terms;
- d. Promoting improved environmental protection, including natural resources, through such mechanisms as: incentives for conserving, restoring, or enhancing the environment; energy efficiency and renewable energy; public/private partnerships; endangered species conservation; improved natural resource management; and environmental education.

### **Section 3**

1. The United States and Singapore plan to meet at least biennially to review the status of cooperation under this Memorandum. At the first such consultation, the two governments intend to devise a Plan of Action setting out initial cooperative projects to be pursued. This Plan may be updated and amended at each successive consultation, as appropriate.
2. In conducting this work, the two governments intend to consider the views and recommendations of any subcommittees established under Article 18.4 of the United States - Singapore Free Trade Agreement. Each government should also solicit, and take fully into account as appropriate, the views of the public with respect to the initial development and the amending of the Plan of Action.
3. Each government plans to name a Principal Coordinator to serve as a point of contact for cooperative activities under this Memorandum.

### **Section 4**

In preparing the Plan of Action, the following forms of cooperation may be considered:

- a. Exchange of professionals, technicians, and specialists, including study visits, to promote the development of environmental policies and standards;
- b. Organization of joint conferences, seminars, workshops, meetings, training sessions and outreach and education programs;
- c. Support for collaboration projects and demonstrations, including joint research projects, studies and reports;
- d. Facilitation of linkages among representatives from academia, industry, and government to promote the exchange of best practices and environmental information and data likely to be of interest to the two governments;

e. Sharing information on national environmental programs subject to the respective government's laws and regulations; and

f. Such other forms of environmental cooperation as the two governments may deem appropriate.

## **Section 5**

All cooperative activities under this Memorandum are subject to the availability of funds and to the applicable laws and regulations of their respective countries.

## **Section 6**

Each government intends to take appropriate steps, where possible, to assist the other government in meeting requirements for the entry of equipment and personnel related to this Memorandum into its territory, subject to its laws and regulations.

## **Section 7**

The two governments intend that all non-proprietary technical information obtained through the implementation of this Memorandum would be available to both governments to the extent permissible under their respective laws and regulations.

## **Section 8**

1. Cooperation under this Memorandum of Intent may commence upon its signature by the Government of the United States and the Government of the Republic of Singapore and may continue indefinitely. Either government may discontinue its cooperation at any time, but should notify the other government in writing six months in advance. The two governments intend to consult to determine the disposition of any cooperative activities not fully completed at the time of such discontinuance.
2. The Memorandum may be modified in writing by the two governments.

SIGNED at Washington, in duplicate, this thirteenth day of June, 2003.

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF  
THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF  
THE  
REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE:

/s/

/s/

PAULA DOBRIANSKY  
UNDER SECRETARY FOR  
GLOBAL

CHAN HENG CHEE  
AMBASSADOR  
EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC

AFFAIRS OF SINGAPORE  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE